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300 at Boston meeting hit CIA

By SHEPHERD BLISS
Guardian Bureau

Boston

About 300 people attended a conference here May 7-8 on the "CIA, Intelligence and Repression." Held at Boston University, the meeting was organized by Boston-area activists in community, anti-imperialist, antirepression and women's organizations.

Speaking in a recorded message, former CIA agent Philip Agee advanced a central theme of the conference, stating that although the CIA operates abroad for the benefit of U.S. corporations, there is a relationship between what the CIA does abroad and what happens in the U.S.

Winslow Peck, coditor of Counter-Spy and a former analyst for the National Security Agency, stressed the need for going beyond defensive actions. "We need to study U.S. society, take direct actions against the state and corporations, and link up further with others," he said.

Ray Lugo, secretary of the New England zone of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party warned that the racist violence now taking place in Boston may be setting a precedent for similar action against third-world people in other areas of the country.

One of the opening speakers, Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosen-

berg, provided a history of repression from the 1930s to the execution of his parents in 1953. In his remarks Meeropol noted that the Communist Party under Earl Browder mistakenly merged its forces with the New Deal administration of President Roosevelt, with "the result that the left had no power outside the New Deal."

Eqbal Ahmed, a defendant in the Harrisburg 8 trial, the other opening speaker, criticized the recent Senate report that did not ask for any basic changes in the CIA despite the horrendous crimes of the agency revealed during lengthy hearings.

This point was carried further by Peck, who asserted that the Senate Committee on the CIA had carried out sophisticated coverups that will "result in the legalization of activities currently illegal. These changes will be a step toward the further creation of a police state."

Conference participants also took part in a demonstration organized by the Committee for Panamanian Sovereignty. The demonstrators marched with a huge banner reading "U.S. Out of Panama" and they chanted "Reagan, Ford, CIA, Out of Panama today." The protest was held at Boston University's Center for Latin American studies, a recipient of CIA funds.